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Humble For Allah, Raised Above All - The Proud Are Those Who Fall

The heart is the vessel through which we know Allah, accept truth, and walk the path of righteousness. But when the heart is diseased with pride, arrogance, and ego, the soul follows into darkness.

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Corrupted Heart - Corrupted Self

Al-Nu’man ibn Bashir رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

أَلَا وَإِنَّ فِي الْجَسَدِ مُضْغَةً إِذَا صَلَحَتْ صَلَحَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ وَإِذَا فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ الْجَسَدُ كُلُّهُ أَلَا وَهِيَ الْقَلْبُ

"Truly, in the body there is a piece of flesh which, if it is sound, the whole body is sound; and if it is corrupted, the whole body is corrupted. Truly, it is the heart."

[Agreed Upon]

The heart is the vessel through which we know Allah, accept truth, and walk the path of righteousness. But when the heart is diseased with pride, arrogance, and ego, the soul follows into darkness.

This corruption manifests in a refusal to accept advice, truth, or correction — even when it comes from those we consider “beneath” us.

This spiritual sickness is called Kibr — arrogance — and it is among the gravest dangers to a believer.

What is Kibr?

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ clearly defined arrogance in a concise and powerful hadith:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ " لاَ يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ كِبْرٍ " . قَالَ رَجُلٌ إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ يُحِبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ ثَوْبُهُ حَسَنًا وَنَعْلُهُ حَسَنَةً . قَالَ " إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ الْكِبْرُ بَطَرُ الْحَقِّ وَغَمْطُ النَّاسِ " .

It is narrated on the authority of Abdullah b. Mas'ud رضي الله عنه that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ , said: "He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter Paradise. A person (amongst his hearers) said: 'Verily a person loves that his dress should be fine, and his shoes should be fine.' He ﷺ said: 'Verily, Allah is Beautiful and He loves beauty. Arrogance (Kibr) is disdaining the truth (out of self-conceit) and contempt for the people.'"

[Sahih Muslim 91a]

What is Kibr?

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْكِبْر مَنْ بَطِرَ الْحَقَّ وَغَمَطَ النَّاسَ

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “Arrogance is one who disregards the truth and looks down upon people.”

This hadith defines arrogance in two ways:

- Rejecting the truth (batar al-ḥaqq)
- Belittling people (ghamṭ al-nās)

So arrogance is not about how you dress or what you own, but about how you treat truth — and how you see others.

The Root of Arrogance: A Spiritual Disease

The first to display arrogance was Iblīs, who refused a direct command from Allah — not out of ignorance, but out of pride.

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ ٱسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوٓا إِلَّآ إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَٱسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ ٱلْكَٰفِرِينَ

"And [mention] when We said to the angels, 'Prostrate to Adam,' and they all prostrated except Iblīs. He refused and was arrogant and became of the disbelievers."

— Surah al-Baqarah (2:34)

His arrogance led to disbelief — and expulsion from Allah's mercy. We ask Allah to protect us from that, Ameen.

'And [mention] when We said to the angels, 'Prostrate to Adam,' and they all prostrated except Iblīs. He refused and was arrogant and became of the disbelievers.'

- Surah al-Baqarah (2:34)

Arrogance, therefore, is more than a character flaw; it is a path to destruction.

Qur'anic Warnings Against Arrogance

1. Arrogance Prevents Guidance

سَأَصْرِفُ عَنْ آيَاتِيَ الَّذِينَ يَتَكَبَّرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَإِن يَرَوْا كُلَّ آيَةٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا وَإِن يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الرُّشْدِ لَا يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا وَإِن يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الْغَيِّ يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا عَنْهَا غَافِلِينَ

"I will turn away from My signs those who are arrogant upon the earth without right; and if they should see every sign, they will not believe in it. And if they see the way of consciousness, they will not adopt it as a way; but if they see the way of error, they will adopt it as a way. That is because they have denied Our signs and they were heedless of them."

— Surah al-A'rāf (7:146)

Arrogance leads to spiritual blindness. A proud heart cannot receive divine light.

Qur'anic Warnings Against Arrogance

2. Allah ﷻ Does Not Love the Arrogant

إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْتَكْبِرِينَ

"Indeed, He does not love the arrogant."

— Surah an-Naḥl (16:23)

If Allah's love is removed, what remains of a person's worth?

The Path Of The Best رضي الله عنهم

Shaykh Joe Bradford, one of our instructors at Zidni, I ask Allah to preserve him ameen, shared a gem as a reminder:

Al-Tirmidhi narrated in his Sunan with his chain of narration from Mu'adha, from Aisha who said

عَنْ مُعَاذَةَ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، قَالَتْ مُرْنَ أَزْوَاجَكُنَّ أَنْ يَسْتَطِيبُوا، بِالْمَاءِ فَإِنِّي أَسْتَحْيِيهِمْ فَإِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم كَانَ يَفْعَلُهُ"

"Tell your husbands to cleanse themselves with water, for I am shy to tell them [myself], for indeed the Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to do so."

[Jamiʿ at-Tirmidhi 19]

And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.

- Surah At-Tawbah (9:100)

Ahmad's wording in the Musnad is as follows: "Tell your husbands to wash away the traces of defecation and urination, for I am shy to command them to do so. Indeed, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to do so."

The Path Of The Best رضي الله عنهم

A few beneficial points from this hadith:

And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.
- Surah At-Tawbah (9:100)

- It shows the importance of purity and cleanliness, both in general and specific matters
- It demonstrates that Muslims should learn religious rulings concerning the opposite gender, whether they are men or women
- It shows a knowledgeable woman teaching other women
- And women teaching their husbands the religious rulings they've learned
- It shows that a man can receive knowledge from his wife just as she receives it from him
- Knowledge and teaching are not restricted to men alone
- It also shows that it is natural for a woman to be modest in addressing men, even if she is a scholar of standing and status
- It shows that transmitting the Sunnah as evidence for why an action should be done was a norm among early generations
- It shows that learning and sharing beneficial knowledge should be a norm among men, women, and children.
- It demonstrates using the Prophet's ﷺ actions as evidence for rulings

The original post can be found **HERE**.

The Path Of The Best رضي الله عنهم

Arrogance can cause us to reject truth — not because we disagree with the message, but because we don't like the messenger:

- A younger Muslim reminds us of a hadith — and we brush it off.
- A woman shares an ayah — and we act as if it holds no weight.
- A child corrects a mistake — and we feel insulted.
- A spouse advises us — and we become defensive.

And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.
- Surah At-Tawbah (9:100)

This is exactly what the Prophet ﷺ warned against: rejecting truth and belittling people.

We are Ahlu As Sunnah Wa Al Jama'ah, and following any other way than that of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and those who are the best generation رضي الله عنهم is indeed a destruction of ourselves, and even thinking that they did not know better than us is arrogance in and of itself.

The Path Of The Best رضي الله عنهم

Allah ﷻ says:

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُم بِإِحْسَانٍ رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتَهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.

— Surah At-Tawbah (9:100)

And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him, and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment.
- Surah At-Tawbah (9:100)

We want to know better than them - than those Allah is pleased with and they are in Jannah? One can only think this way if one is an unjust, arrogant tyrant to one's soul.

We ask Allah to protect us from arrogance and help us purify our hearts, Ameen.

Humility Leads to Honor

The cure for arrogance is humility — not weakness or self-loathing, but sincere submission to Allah and acceptance of truth wherever it comes from.

وَعِبَادُ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى ٱلْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا

"And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth humbly..."

— Surah al-Furqān (25:63)

And in a Hadith it is mentioned:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ " مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ " .

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reported Allah's Messenger ﷺ as saying: "Charity does not decrease wealth, no one forgives another except that Allah increases his honor, and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises his status."

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, 2588]

The path to greatness is paved with humility.

A Final Reminder: Check Your Heart

Let us ask ourselves:

- Do I refuse advice because of who it comes from?
- Do I see myself as better than others — due to knowledge, age, gender, or status?
- Do I become angry when corrected?

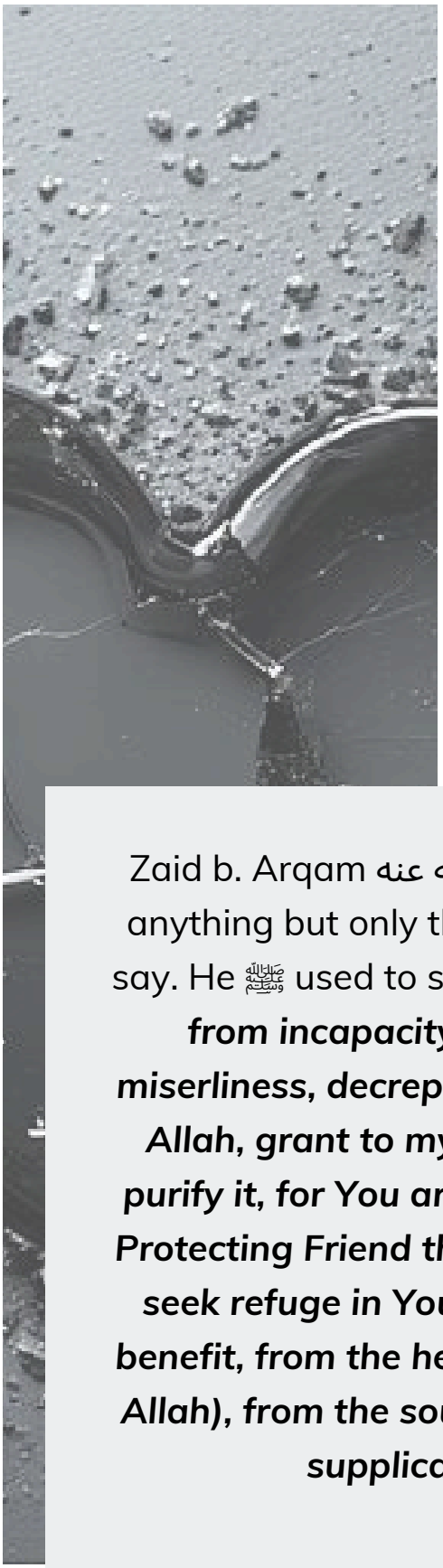
If so, it may not be a knowledge issue — it may be a heart issue.

We seek refuge in Allah from the blindness of the eyes and hearts, Ameen.

'Indeed, He does not love the arrogant.'

- Surah an-Naḥl (16:23)

If you would like to learn how to purify your soul, join our Zidni Usul Program where **Sh. Ammar Shahin** teaches ***Tazkiyat An-Nafs [Purification of the soul].*** More information **HERE**.



A Du'a' for Purification

There are many supplications for purification, here is one we picked, and I ask Allah to accept it from us, Ameen.

عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ أَرْقَمَ، قَالَ لاَ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِلاَّ كَمَا كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ كَانَ يَقُولُ **"اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْعَجْزِ وَالْكَسَلِ وَالْجُبْنِ وَالْبُخْلِ وَالْهَرَمِ وَعَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا وَزَكِّهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا أَنْتَ وَلِيُّهَا وَمَوْلاَهَا اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ لاَ يَنْفَعُ وَمِنْ قَلْبٍ لاَ يَخْشَعُ وَمِنْ نَفْسٍ لاَ تَشْبَعُ وَمِنْ دَعْوَةٍ لاَ يُسْتَجَابُ لَهَا "** .

Zaid b. Arqam رضي الله عنه reported: "I am not going to say anything but only that which Allah's Messenger ﷺ used to say. He ﷺ used to supplicate: ***"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from incapacity, from sloth, from cowardice, from miserliness, decrepitude and from torment of the grave. O Allah, grant to my soul the sense of righteousness and purify it, for You are the Best Purifier thereof. You are the Protecting Friend thereof, and Guardian thereof. O Allah, I seek refuge in You from the knowledge which does not benefit, from the heart that does not entertain the fear (of Allah), from the soul that does not feel contented and the supplication that is not responded."***

[Sahih Muslim 2722]

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Final Reminder

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُ اتَّقِ اللَّهَ أَخَذَتْهُ الْعِزَّةُ بِالْإِثْمِ ۚ فَحَسْبُهُ جَهَنَّمُ ۚ وَلَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ

"And when it is said to him, 'Fear Allah', pride in the sin takes hold of him. Sufficient for him is Hellfire, and how wretched is the resting place."

—[Al Qur'an 2:206]

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